

What is Hoarding?

The Brookline Hoarding Task Force defines Hoarding as follows:

Hoarding is the collection of materials to the point where an individual's quality of life and the functions of one's living space is diminished. Detectable signs of hoarding include blocked egresses, non-functioning toilets, and fire hazards due to an abundance of material.

Other signs include infestations, collected spoiled food, and squalor.

Hoarding conditions may present a nuisance or safety hazard to the surrounding community due to potential fire hazards, odor, or pest issues.

Some individuals present extreme cleanliness and organization in addition to their hoarding behavior.

Hoarding is not exclusive to the elderly population; it is observed in a full range of age groups, education levels, and mental health states.

What is the Hoarding Task Force?

The Hoarding Task Force is a collaboration between the the Brookline Health Department, the Brookline Community Mental Health Center, and the Brookline Council on Aging. The goal of the Hoarding Task Force is to develop and implement best practices for assisting Brookline residents who struggle with compulsive hoarding.

Links to Materials developed by Hoarding Task Force:

[Cleaning, Storage, Organizing Services Listing](#)

[Compulsive Hoarding Toolbox](#)

[Hoarding Resources List](#)

For more information on Compulsive Hoarding:

Boston University School of Social Work - Hoarding Research Project

<http://www.bu.edu/ssw/research/hoarding/>